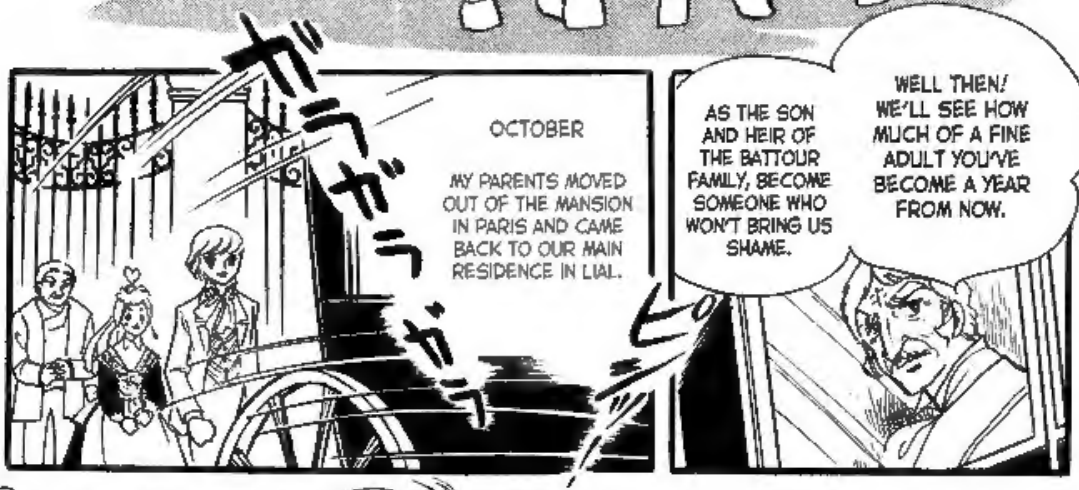
Translator's Note

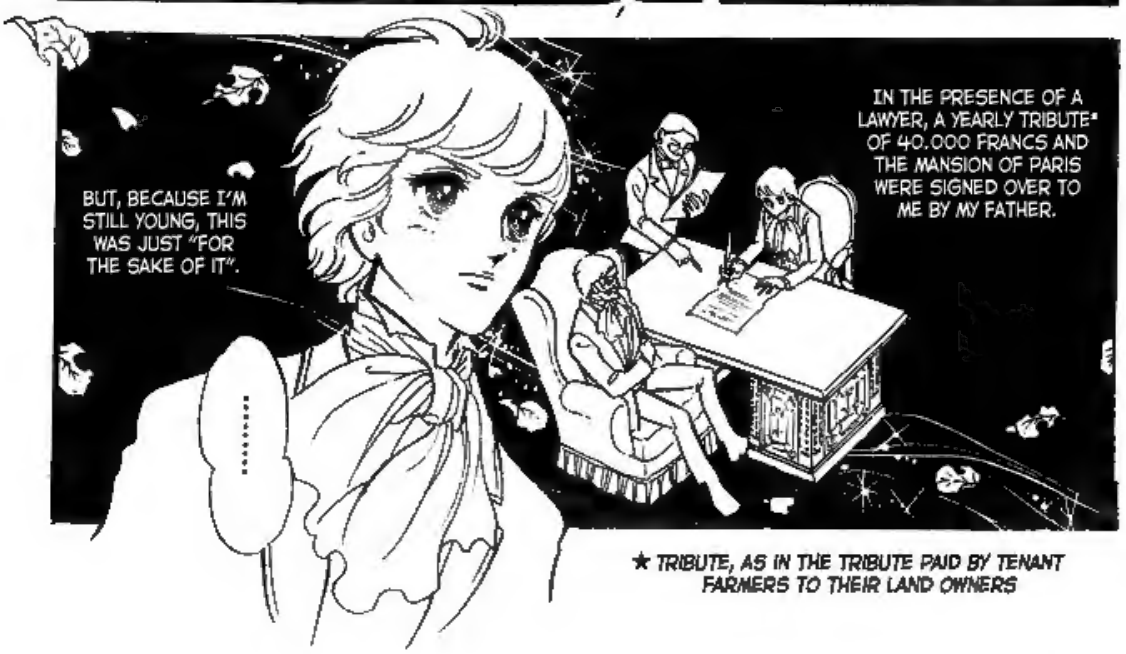
IN THE NEXT FEW CHAPTERS THE AUTHOR WILL PLAY AROUND WITH A WORK KNOWN IN JAPANESE AS "TSUBAKI-HIME" (LITERALLY CAMELLIA-PRINCESS) IN SEVERAL WAYS.

IN ENGLISH THIS WORK HAS DIFFERENT NAMES, DEPENDING ON THE MEDIUM:
THE BOOK IS NAMED "THE LADY OF THE CAMELLIAS", AND THE OPERA BASED ON IT IS NAMED "LA TRAVIATA". WE HAD TO CHANGE THE NAME WE USED ACCORDING TO THE CONTEXT WHERE IT APPEARS, BUT DO KEEP IN MIND THAT THESE TWO WORKS ARE RELATED.

〔第二節〕 椿 姫

SECOND SECTION - LA TRAVIATA


ガラガラ
OCTOBER
MY PARENTS MOVED OUT OF THE MANSION IN PARIS AND CAME BACK TO OUR MAIN RESIDENCE IN LIAL.
AS THE SON AND HEIR OF THE BATTOUR FAMILY, BECOME SOMEONE WHO WON'T BRING US SHAME.
WELL THEN! WE'LL SEE HOW MUCH OF A FINE ADULT YOU'VE BECOME A YEAR FROM NOW.


IN THE PRESENCE OF A LAWYER, A YEARLY TRIBUTE* OF 40.000 FRANCS AND THE MANSION OF PARIS WERE SIGNED OVER TO ME BY MY FATHER.
BUT, BECAUSE I'M STILL YOUNG, THIS WAS JUST "FOR THE SAKE OF IT".
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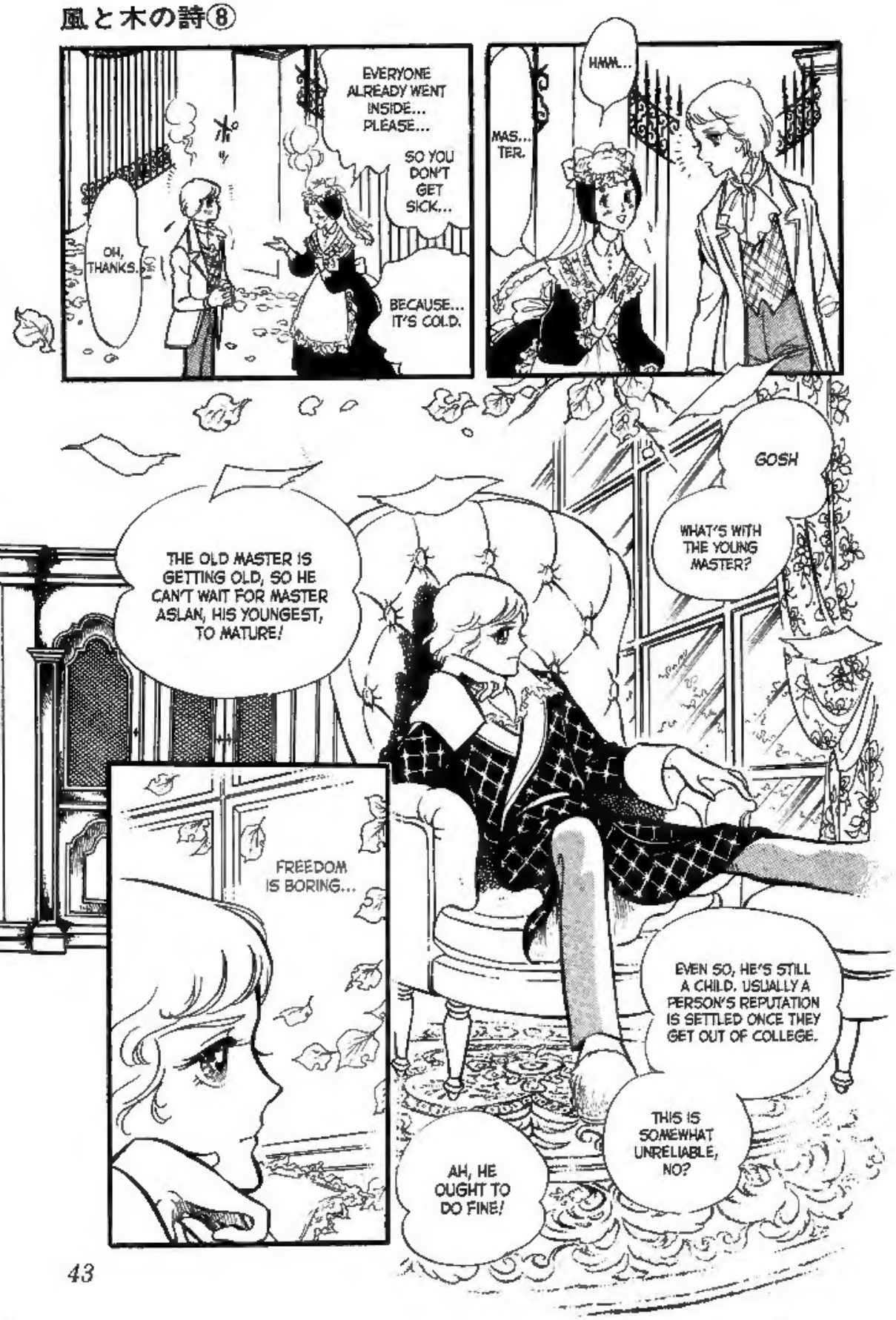
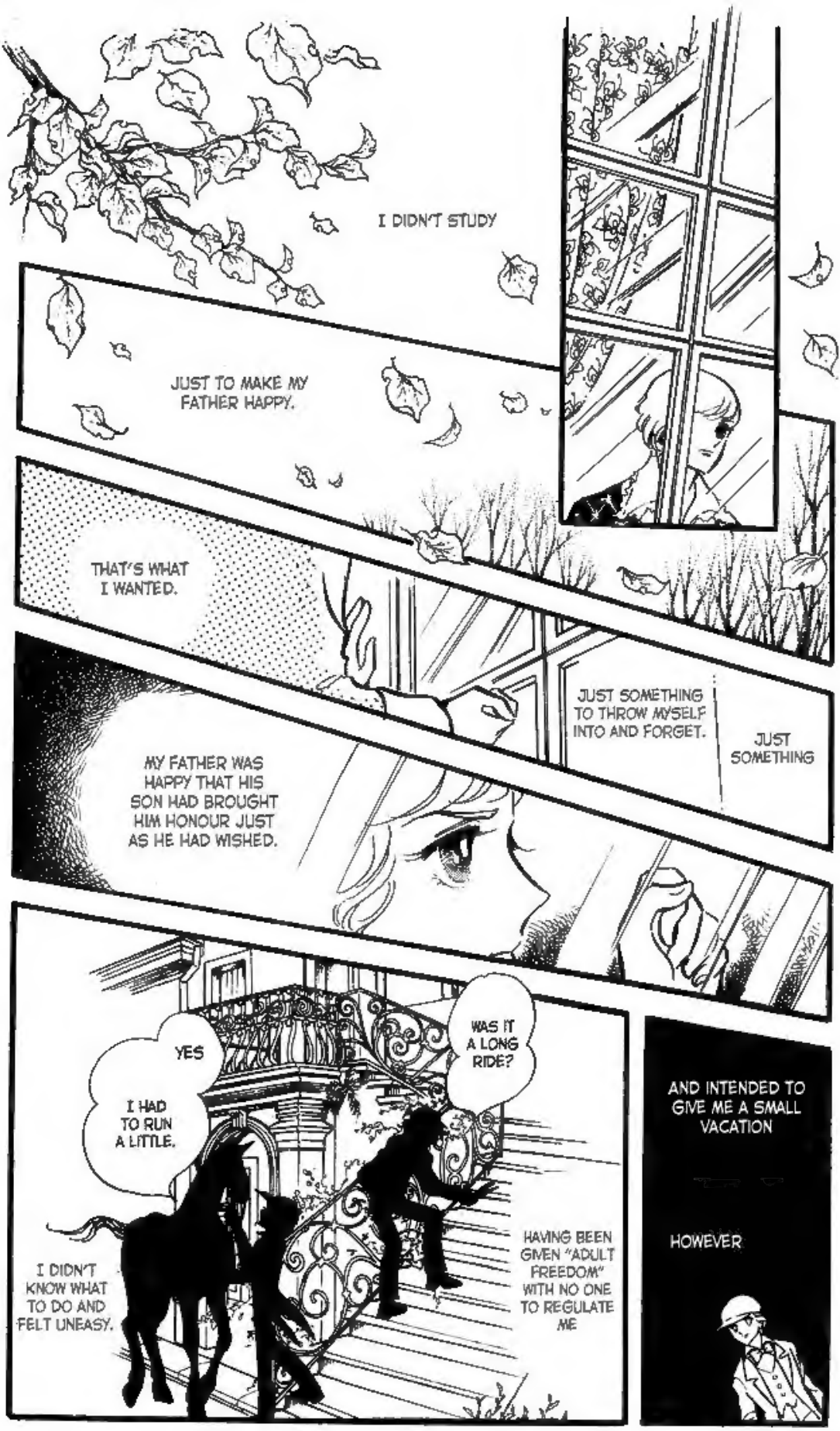
★ TRIBUTE, AS IN THE TRIBUTE PAID BY TENANT FARMERS TO THEIR LAND OWNERS


EVERYONE ALREADY WENT INSIDE... PLEASE...
SO YOU DON'T GET SICK...
BECAUSE... IT'S COLD.
OH, THANKS.
HMM...
MAS... TER.
GOSH
WHAT'S WITH THE YOUNG MASTER?
THE OLD MASTER IS GETTING OLD, SO HE CAN'T WAIT FOR MASTER ASLAN, HIS YOUNGEST, TO MATURE!
FREEDOM IS BORING...
EVEN SO, HE'S STILL A CHILD. USUALLY A PERSON'S REPUTATION IS SETTLED ONCE THEY GET OUT OF COLLEGE.
THIS IS SOMEWHAT UNRELIABLE, NO?
AH, HE OUGHT TO DO FINE!


I DIDN'T STUDY
JUST TO MAKE MY FATHER HAPPY.
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED.
JUST SOMETHING TO THROW MYSELF INTO AND FORGET.
JUST SOMETHING
MY FATHER WAS HAPPY THAT HIS SON HAD BROUGHT HIM HONOUR JUST AS HE HAD WISHED.
WAS IT A LONG RIDE?
YES
I HAD TO RUN A LITTLE.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO AND FELT UNEASY.
HAVING BEEN GIVEN "ADULT FREEDOM" WITH NO ONE TO REGULATE ME
AND INTENDED TO GIVE ME A SMALL VACATION
HOWEVER

EVEN SO!
IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE, UNTIL NOW HE'S BEEN AWAY FROM SOCIAL LIFE.
DON'T SAY THAT, WATTS!
WHAT A LUXURY!!
YOU'RE BORED?!
WHAT'S SO BORING ABOUT HAVING MONEY AND TIME AND YOUR COMFORTABLE LIFE!!
I'LL SHOW YOU! I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO HAVE A PROPER SOCIAL LIFE!
IN MY CASE, EVEN IF I DON'T HAVE MONEY OR TIME, I AT LEAST DON'T FORGET HOW TO HAVE A GOOD TIME!
WATTS!
WEASEL
IN EXCHANGE, I REQUEST WAR FUNDS. WAR FUNDS!
IN...
GUK
NEXT, A CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERT.
ZZZZZZZZ
YAWN
HOW ABOUT WE BUY SOME TICKETS? THERE ARE GOOD PERFORMANCES IN THERE!
WE SHOULD START WITH SOMETHING LIKE THE OPERA.
WELL THEN!
SOMB!

HOLD ON!
YOU TWO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING LISTENING TO THE MUSIC SO SERIOUSLY?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
Is there anything else to do?
Shudder
THIS HERE! THIS IS A SOCIAL MEETING PLACE!

EXCITED
EXCITED
THE NEXT DAY
ONCE AGAIN, THE OPERA.

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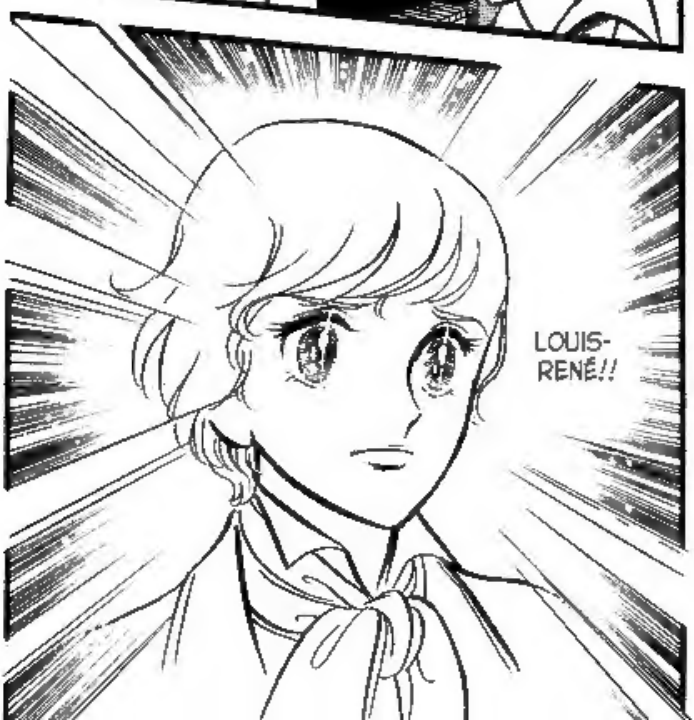
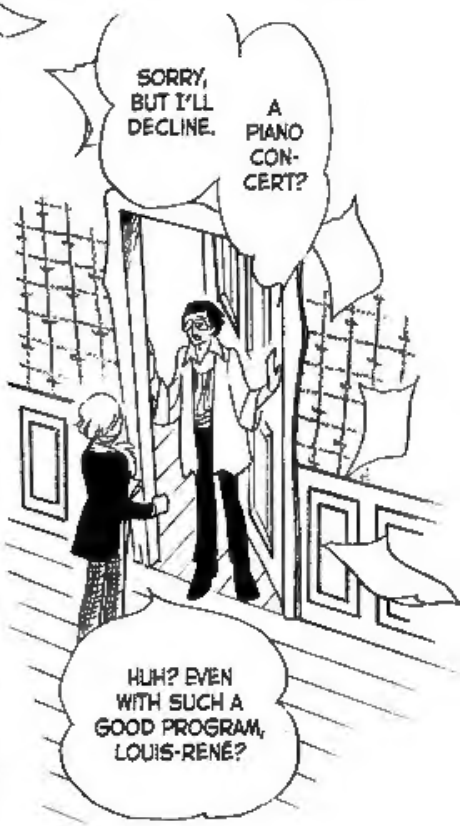
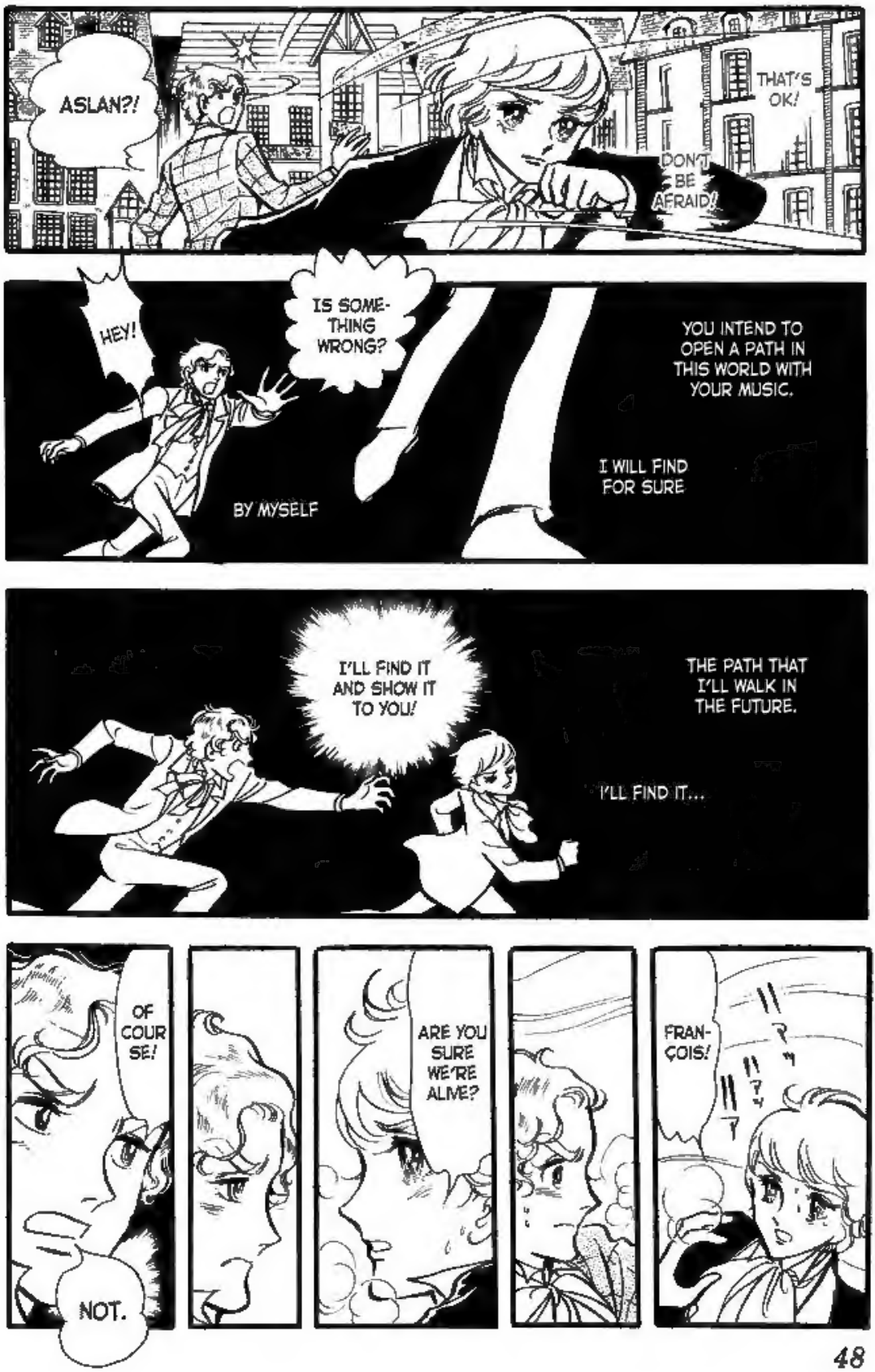
I-I GOT IT, BE QUIET!
BESIDES, AREN'T YOU BEING RUDE TO THE LADIES!
SUCH TRAGEDY IT IS FOR YOU TO BE ENGROSSED IN THE MUSIC WITHOUT WOOING NOT EVEN ONE GIRL!

I DON'T WANT TO BECOME A LISTENER, I WANT TO BECOME A PERFORMER.
I'M DONE WITH THIS.
SORRY, BUT


LOUIS-RENÉ!!


SORRY, BUT I'LL DECLINE.
A PIANO CON-CERT?
HUH? EVEN WITH SUCH A GOOD PROGRAM, LOUIS-RENÉ?

ASLAN...
I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT!
DON'T APOLOGIZE..
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR!
ASLAN!
THE DAILY CHANGES KEEP PILING UP
AND EACH PATH IS ALREADY DIVERGING.
EVEN WHEN IT COMES TO LISTENING TO MUSIC
IT'S NATURAL THAT DIFFERENCES WOULD APPEAR BETWEEN YOU, WHO HAS A PURPOSE, AND ME, WHO DOESN'T.


ASLAN?!
THAT'S OK!
DON'T BE AFRAID!
HEY!
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
BY MYSELF
YOU INTEND TO OPEN A PATH IN THIS WORLD WITH YOUR MUSIC.
I WILL FIND FOR SURE
I'LL FIND IT AND SHOW IT TO YOU!
THE PATH THAT I'LL WALK IN THE FUTURE.
I'LL FIND IT...
OF COUR SE!
NOT.
ARE YOU SURE WE'RE ALIVE?
FRAN-ÇOIS!

FRAN-
ÇOIS.
FRAN
THE ECSTASY AND ANXIETY ONE FEELS IN "BEING ALIVE"
IDIOT!
DON'T CRY IN A PLACE LIKE THIS! PEOPLE WILL MISUN-DERSTAND!
AHA-HAHA-HAHA-HAHA.
HA-HA!
AH
YOUR HEART CONSTANTLY LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO BE.
SHUT UP, SHUT UP
SHUT UP!
DON'T MAKE HER CRY!
YO, WATTS! THAT'S A CUTE ONE YOU CAUGHT!
AT A TIME LIKE THAT...
THAT'S WHEN I MET HER.

ナシ
GOOD EVENING!
AH! ASLAN, WHAT A NICE EVENING!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH THAT SILK HAT?
ASLAN
SHALL WE GO TO THE DANCE IN THE PLAZA?
SORRY, I'M IN A HURRY TODAY!
AH, WHAT A BUMMER!
IS IT A DATE WITH FRANÇOIS AGAIN?

Y-YES.
YOUR ASLAN. YOU SAY?
ARE YOU SAYING MY ASLAN IS VULGAR?! BE CAREFUL WITH WHAT YOU SAY!
FOR A YOUNG NOBLE TO DO SOMETHING SO VULGAR...
HUMPH, A BAD INFLUENCE FROM THAT RUFFIAN PIG FRANÇOIS.
KYAA! DID YOU SEE? THAT UNUSUAL WINK WAS SO DREAMY!
HE OCCASIONALLY SHOWED HIS FACE IN THE LOW-TOWN.
"THE SON OF VISCOUNT BATTOUR, WHO OWNS A MANSION IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF PARIS. HE JUST TURNED 18 THIS JUNE.
IN ADDITION TO BE NG HANDSOME HE IS ALSO BRILLIANT"
WITH THIS, HE HAD THE THREE MAIN REQU - SITES THAT MADE HIM BE A YOUNG NOBLE EVERYONE YEARNED AFTER

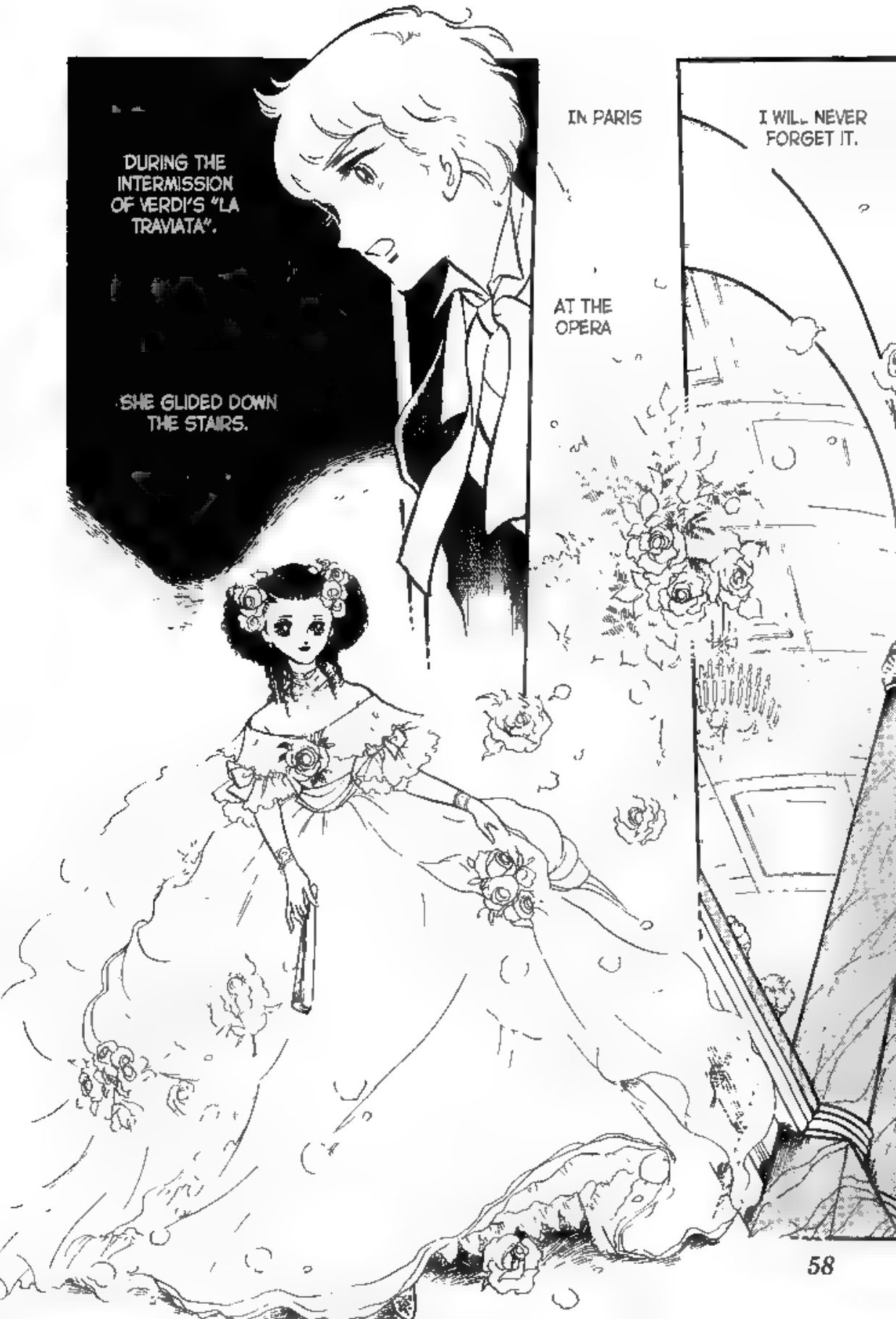
FRANÇOIS!
WAH!
SORRY!
FRAN-ÇOIS! ARE YOU THERE!
ARE YOU READY? WE'RE OUT OF TIME!
CAN I COME IN?
I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME BY THAT GIRLY NAME. I WON'T ANSWER TO IT.
FRAN-ÇOIS?!

ASLAN ?!
HEY, ASLAN W... WHAT'S WRONG?!
.....
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT'S ASLAN...
GU...
DID THEY GET IT WRONG? I DO LOOK LIKE A THUG...
GU... GIMME A BREAK!

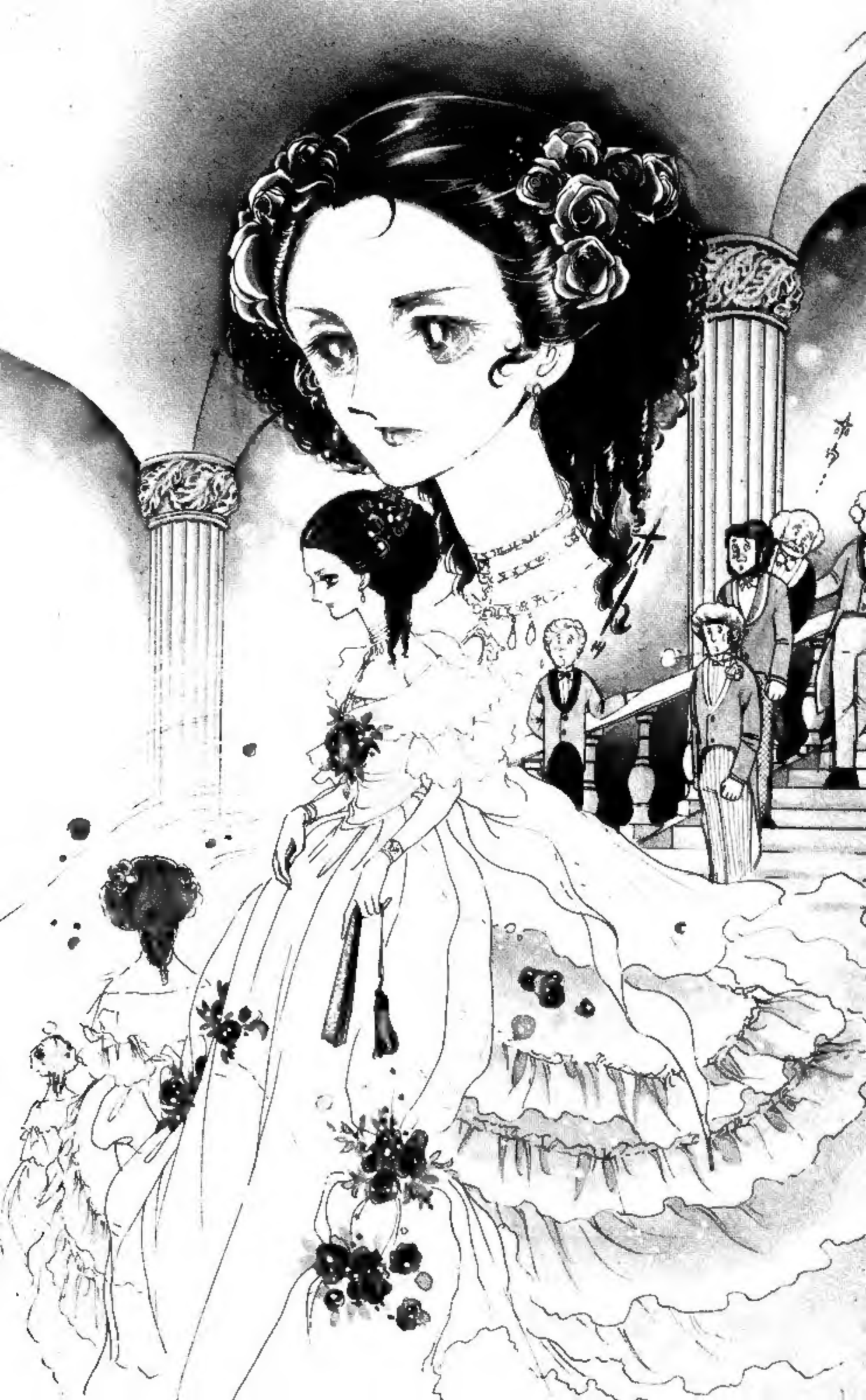
AH! YOU! BASTARD! YOU WERE PLAYING AROUND WITH ME!
あーはははー
くっくっくっ
KUKUKU
IS MY SEMI-NUDE THAT SHOCKING!
BUT WHY DID YOU PASS OUT!
I CAN SCARE YOU ONCE IN A WHILE, YES?
YEP! I WAS TIRED OF YOUR BEING LATE WITH THIS AND THAT EVERY TIME I INVITE YOU TO THE OPERA!
DON'T FORGET YOUR GILET*! IT'S THE OPERA!
PUTTING MY CLOTHES ON DOESN'T TAKE BUT A MINUTE.
LET ME DO AT LEAST THIS.
I'M FORCIBLY DRAGGED ALONG AND SERVE AS YOUR GUARDIAN.
WHICH ONE OF US?
TCHE, MISCHIEVOUS.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF TODAY'S OPERA, FRANÇOIS?
A PIECE BY VERDI, "LA TRAVIATA".
THE PRIMADONNA S MARY NIKISCH... AND THEN
OH STOP, DON'T EVEN TELL ME ANYTHING ELSE!
EVEN YOU OUGHT TO LIKE THIS ONE.
THE PASSIONATE LOVE BETWEEN THE PROSTITUTE VIOLETTA VALÉRY AND THE YOUNG ALFREDO GERMONT!
ザワ
ザワ
TO BEGIN WITH, IT'S A TURN OFF HAVING THE PRETTY GIRL WHO DIED FROM CONSUMPTION BEING PLAYED BY THAT HUNDRED TON FATSO!
BUT FRANÇOIS, THEY CAN'T HELP GETTING FAT WHEN TRAINING THEIR VOICES.
DON'T USE THAT NAME !!
EVEN IF YOU TELL ME NOT TO USE IT, IT'S NOT THAT EASY TO STOP CALLING YOU THE NAME I USED DURING OUR TIME AT THE ACADEMY!
SHUT UP! AT OUR AGE IT ISN'T DIGNIFIED TO USE THOSE NAMES!

WELL, WHAT SHOULD I CALL YOU THEN?
WATTS-KUN, WATTS-SAN, WATTS-SENPAI!
THERE ARE MANY WAYS OF CALLING THAT WON'T HURT THE DIGNITY OF YOUR SENIORS!
3 YEARS OLDER


DURING THE INTERMISSION OF VERDI'S "LA TRAVIATA".
SHE GLIDED DOWN THE STAIRS.
IN PARIS
AT THE OPERA
I WILL NEVER FORGET IT.

.....!
MY CHEST WAS PIERCED IN THAT MOMENT
A PAIN AS IF IT HAD BEEN STABBED.



W-WHAT WAS THIS?! IT'S AS IF MY CHEST WAS BEING SQUEEZED TIGHT...
HEY, YOU! ARE YOU LISTENING?!
AH...
ASLAN!

DEAR GUESTS.
PLEASE GET BACK TO YOUR SEATS.
WAIT! THE SECOND ACT IS STARTING!
WHAT THE HECK IS WRONG WITH YOU!
?
AH... NO... I... HUM...
I REMEMBERED I HAD AN APPOINTMENT...
AND PANICKED...
ha ha ha

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